



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5361

February Session, 2004

* _____HB05361PRI____030504_____*

**AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE
CONCERNING CONSOLIDATION OF AGENCIES SERVING PERSONS
WITH DISABILITIES.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Secretary of the Office of
2 Policy and Management shall direct the consolidation of the
3 Department of Mental Retardation, the Commission on the Deaf and
4 Hearing Impaired, the Department of Mental Health and Addiction
5 Services, the Board of Education and Services for the Blind and the
6 Bureau of Rehabilitation Services into the Department of
7 Developmental and Rehabilitative Services in accordance with the
8 provisions of section 4-38d, 4-38e and 4-39 of the general statutes. The
9 Department of Developmental and Rehabilitative Services shall consist
10 of the following divisions: (1) Administrative; (2) mental health and
11 addiction services, to which shall be transferred all the programs and
12 services of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services;
13 (3) mental retardation services, to which shall be transferred all the
14 programs and services of the Department of Mental Retardation; (4)
15 services for the blind and visually impaired, to which shall be
16 transferred all the programs and services of the Board of Education
17 and Services for the Blind; (5) services for the deaf, to which shall be
18 transferred all the programs and services of the Commission on the
19 Deaf and Hearing Impaired; and (6) disability determination and

20 vocational rehabilitation, to which shall be transferred all the programs
21 and services of the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services.

22 (b) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall
23 establish a steering committee to develop an implementation plan for
24 such consolidation. The secretary shall appoint the members of the
25 steering committee as follows: One member designated by the State
26 Employees Union Bargaining Coalition; one member designated by the
27 state Management Advisory Council; one member designated by each
28 of the agencies specified in subsection (a) of this section; one member
29 representing an advocacy organization for each of the client groups
30 serviced by each of the agencies specified in subsection (a) of this
31 section; one member representing a contracting service provider for
32 one of the agencies specified in subsection (a) of this section, that is not
33 an advocate of a client group, and one member representing a private
34 sector business or trade association.

35 (c) The steering committee shall develop an implementation plan
36 that provides for consolidation of the agencies specified in subsection
37 (a) of this section to begin on February 1, 2005, and to be completed by
38 December 31, 2005. Each member of the steering committee from an
39 agency specified in subsection (a) of this section may form an
40 implementation team consisting of personnel in such member's agency
41 and in any support agency, including, but not limited to, the
42 Department of Information Technology, appropriate and relevant to
43 achieving such agency's consolidation into the Department of
44 Developmental and Rehabilitative Services. The steering committee
45 shall prioritize all activities necessary to such consolidation and
46 establish completion dates for such activities, which shall be included
47 in the consolidation implementation plan. The Secretary of the Office
48 of Policy and Management shall, on or before January 1, 2005, submit
49 the consolidation implementation plan, in accordance with section 11-
50 4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the
51 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
52 appropriations, human services, public health and government
53 administration.

This act shall take effect as follows:
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Section 1	<i>from passage</i>
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Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

The first sentence of subsection (a) was rewritten to clarify that the Department of Developmental and Rehabilitative Services will not be established until an implementation plan for consolidation of the agencies specified in subsection (a) is completed.

PRI *Joint Favorable Subst.*